

Lamar Alexander

United States Senator • Tennessee

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Nashville, TN 37203



615.736.5129 - Phone
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General Information

The procedure for selection of nominees for service academies varies with each Congressman and Senator. In this packet, we will try to provide all the information you may need in completing your application process. Service academy nominations by Senator Alexander are handled by our **Nashville office**. Please feel free to contact that office should you have any questions or need assistance in completing the process. It is your responsibility to ensure your application and all required information is complete and has been received by our office by the **postmark deadline of October 15, 2005**. Please advise those sending recommendations that they **must** meet this deadline. You may call 615.736.5129 and speak with the service academy coordinator to verify all materials and letters of recommendations have been received.

Nominating Authority

Competition for nominations is heavy, therefore, we urge you to apply to every nominating authority available to you. Members of Congress may nominate applicants who meet the eligibility requirements established by law. United States Senators nominate from applicants in their entire state. United States Representatives nominate from applicants domiciled in their congressional districts as constituted at the time of their election. Applicants may apply for and receive nominations from both their United States Senators and from their United States Representative. Applicants may also apply to the Vice President of the United States, who can nominate applicants from the country at large. An unlimited number of presidential nominations are available for children and legally adopted children of career officer and enlisted personnel of the armed forces, active or reserve, including the Coast Guard. One hundred candidates may be appointed with these nominations each year. A parent in the Reserves must be serving as a member of a reserve component and be credited with at least eight years of service or must be entitled to retired pay except that he or she is not yet sixty years old. Otherwise, the parent must currently be on active duty (other than for training) and have served continuously for at least eight years or have been retired with pay or granted retired or retainer pay. The President may also appoint the children of Medal of Honor winners.

Senator Alexander must submit his nominations to the Service Academy by January 31, 2006. For each vacancy, he will be allowed ten nominations. The final ranking and subsequent appointments will be at the discretion of the academies. Ten alternates will also be submitted for consideration in the event a nomination becomes available through medical disqualification, cancellation or any other reason. The Service Academies notify candidates of their selection by May 1, 2006. The deadline for candidates to respond is May 15, 2005. Alternates will be considered after that date.

Service Academy Contact

With this packet, you have been provided a list of service academies with their contact information. Your **first priority should be to contact the academy of your choice requesting a pre-candidate application**. They will provide for you general information and detailed requirements for admission to their academy.

Interview

Eligible applicants will be required to have one interview which will be scheduled for Mid November. Those eligible for interview **will be notified** of the date, time and place.

Review Board

After review of the candidate's files, those eligible for interview will be contacted in November to arrange a date, time and place for their interview. Each candidate will be considered on a basis of leadership potential, academic performance, extra-curricular activities, three letters of recommendation, personal interviews and physical fitness. After all interviews are completed, we will have a review board meet to review all candidates' files. After this meeting, the review board will submit their recommendations to senator for his consideration in nominating candidates to the academy.

Status Change

Please keep in mind that we have numerous candidates applying for nomination. Should your status change at any time, please let us know immediately so we can consider others. You may also wish to continue to pursue the opportunity to attend the college of your choice. The academies suggest that since some of the schools require deposits prior to the date the academies announce their selections, you may wish to proceed with the application process even if you lose your deposit. It is better to have that "insurance" rather than lose the chance to attend the school of your choice.

Nomination Requirements

Residency

Senator Alexander can only nominate students who are legal residents of the State of Tennessee. You, or your parents, must claim Tennessee as your primary residence and/or be registered to vote in Tennessee. If you have any questions regarding residency, please contact our office.

Application Form

Please complete the enclosed application form as soon as possible. It is preferred that you send the required information to us as you complete or receive it rather than holding it to submit at one time. Again, it is **YOUR** responsibility to ensure all information is received in a timely manner. Please specify the academy of your choice. If you have multiple choices of academy, please list the order of your preference in the block provided. We urge you to apply to all academies you would consider attending. In some incidences, we may nominate you for your second choice to give you a backup in case you are not accepted by the academy of your first choice. Please be sure to complete pre-candidate application with all academies marked. Your academy choice may be changed any time **prior to the October 15, 2005, postmark deadline.**

Academic Recommendation Form

This form is to be completed by your high school principal or guidance counselor. After completed it should be returned to us in a *SEALED, unopened envelope*. Remind them of the **October 15, 2005, postmark deadline.**

Numerical Class Rank/Size

Please provide your numerical class rank and the approximate size of your class. This information **MUST** be included in the recommendation form completed by your guidance counselor or principal. Should your school not rank students please have the guidance counselor or principal provide an accurate estimate.

Transcript

Ask your principal or guidance counselor for an official transcript which includes your course listing, current GPA, grades, class rank and SAT/ACT test scores. Your final junior grades must be listed on the official transcript. The *transcript should be mailed to us by them in a SEALED, unopened envelope*. A report card is not eligible.

Letters of Recommendation

Have **three** people who know you well, a minister, coach, scoutmaster, teacher or employer to write a recommendation letter for you. These may be mailed by those writing the recommendation, but, again YOU must verify it has been received and is **postmarked prior to October 15, 2005**.

Please keep in mind that one of the main characteristics the service academies are looking for is **leadership**. While grades are very important, academic recommendations do not reflect the entire picture of your character. Therefore, we would appreciate your being very selective in the three individuals you ask to write your recommendation letters. We will accept only the first three recommendation letters we receive. These three letters are in addition to the recommendation by the guidance counselor or principal who completes your academic recommendation form.

Standardized Test Results

You must take either the ACT or SAT prior to October in order to forward the results by the October 15, 2005 postmark deadline. If you prefer for ACT to forward the report to our office direct, you may submit to them the code for Senator Alexander. The senator's code for ACT is 7183. SAT does not send directly to the senator.

Medical Requirements

A service academy medical examination must be passed before a candidate can receive an appointment. The examination is scheduled and reviewed by the Department of Defense Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB). Once taken, the examination may be used for service academies and four-year ROTC scholarship programs. The *most frequently encountered problem areas* include:

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| Visual Acuity: | All candidates accepted shall have an uncorrected visual acuity no poorer than 20/400 in either eye and must be correctable to 20/20 in each eye. |
| Color Vision: | Color blindness, complete or partial, is cause for disqualification. |
| Asthma: | Any history of asthma is also cause for disqualification. |

Eligibility

Each applicant for nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1, 2005:

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| <i>Age:</i> | Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23 rd birthday. |
| <i>Citizenship:</i> | Must be a United States Citizen and a legal resident of Tennessee. |
| <i>Marital Status:</i> | Be unmarried, not pregnant, and have no legal obligation to support children or other dependents |

Essay

Please provide a **one-page** essay briefly stating the reasons you want to attend the academy of your choice.

Photograph

Please provide a recent photograph of yourself and attach to the application form in the space provided.

Deadline

Send all required information **postmarked no later than October 15, 2005** to:

Office of Senator Lamar Alexander
Attn: Service Academy Coordinator
3322 West End Avenue, Suite 120
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

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| October | Have successfully taken the ACT/SAT test. |
| October 15, 2005 | All paperwork has been mailed, i.e. application, transcripts, letters of recommendation, essay. |
| Early November | Interview to be conducted. |
| Mid November | Review board will meet to review eligible candidates' files. |
| January 31, 2006 | Senator's deadline for submitting nominations. |

Please Note: Graduation from a Service Academy obligates you to serve **five years of active duty**.

Checklist for Candidates:

- ☐ Application
- ☐ ACT/SAT Test Scores
- ☐ Transcripts
- ☐ Recommendation form from Principal or Guidance Counselor
- ☐ Letters of Recommendation (3)
- ☐ Essay
- ☐ Interview Scheduled

Date: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____